

The BUZZ WORD

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Music's in my Soul



A Resident enjoying the music at an outside concert at VVH

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions, Please Contact:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson



To Our VVH Family and Friends,

The summer seems to be flying by. I am enjoying the view from my office of our Activities Staff taking Veterans and Members out in the golf carts and for wheelchair rides or walks.

Outside work is in full swing for the Security Project. Currently the sidewalk in front of the Brandon Bouvard entrance has been ripped up and should be repaved in the coming weeks. This was done to bring the sidewalk into compliance with ADA requirements. Inside work has included replacing a door in the Administrative Building and running various wires/cables for the new entry system for staff.

Due to safety concerns, we are now locking all visitor entrance doors between 8pm and 8am daily. If you arrive during those hours, you will need to call the nursing supervisor at 802-375-5909 to be let in.

Interviews are being conducted for the Director of Nursing Services position and when a final candidate has been chosen, I will share this information with you.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Take care, Melissa

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov



TO VETERANS, MEMBERS & FAMILIES

**If you have scheduled a
medical appointment,
please let our friendly
Scheduler know.**

Contact:

TAMMY SHIELDS

Tammy.shields@vermont.gov

802.447.6542



WE DID IT!!

Good times between friends finishing a jigsaw puzzle and sharing some laughs together gets a 2 thumbs up.

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



One of my favorite things about working here has always been bringing in my dogs to visit with the Veterans and Members. It is scientifically proven that dogs can improve not only our emotional, but our physical health and well-being. Only 30 seconds of petting a dog can reduce your stress, lower your blood pressure and just make you happy! They just have a magic way about them and can make a big difference in someone's day.

I also love seeing the dogs that visitors bring along, as well as the therapy dogs that come here to visit. We encourage these visits for well-behaved dogs and would like to provide a few reminders regarding dog visits:



- We need a copy of your dog's **vaccination record**. You can provide this to a member of the staff who will pass it on to Administration. You can also email it to robyn.boland@vermont.gov. Include your name and the Veteran or Member that you visit.
- Remember to keep your dog on a leash and supervised at all times.
- No dogs in the dining rooms or kitchens.
- Please pick up after your dog. The Environmental Services team works hard to keep the grounds in beautiful condition and appreciates everyone who cleans up after themselves.

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

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THANK
you!



The VFW Post 13
treated the
residents and staff
to a good
old-fashioned
cook-out with hot
dogs, burgers, sides
and all the fixings.





Shooting Range

Jamie and James assist the Veterans and Members at the shooting range behind the Trout Pond.



Betty shows off her **Certificate of Achievement** in recognition of her kind acts to her fellow residents.



Life is so much better when you just chill out with a friend

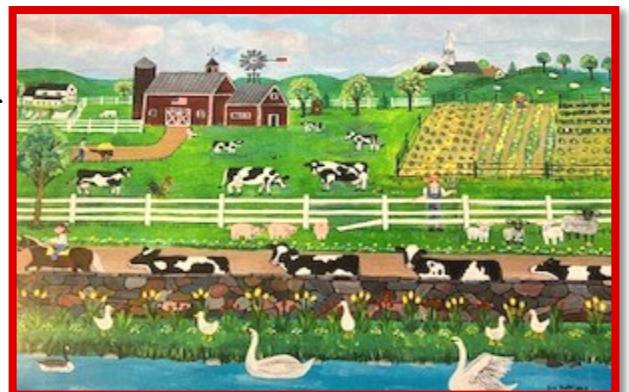
Cecelia S. Mattison



Cecelia has been an artist since age 5 when her parents gave her paper and crayons while they were living in Guam during the Korean War. There was no TV so she began drawing the landscapes and anything that caught her interest. Cecelia had studied at the Art School of Boston and her unique design and use of color can be seen in each of her pictures.

She stated that she loves barns and tries to include one in each of her drawings.

We hope to showcase more of Cecelia's work in future editions of the Buzzword.



Howdy Folks,

One of the questions that is asked during Bible Studies and Church gatherings is “What exactly is Religion?” After considerable research over the years of bibles, religion, books and writings, I attempt to condense it down and offer the following:

Chaplain's Corner



A religion is a set of beliefs and practices, often associated with a supernatural power that shapes or directs human life and death, or a commitment to ideas that provide coherence for one's existence. Adherence to a religion implies belief in a divine force, as well as offering moral guidance for believers. Religions also bind people into communities with common goals and values. There are many religions in the world. Some are practiced within specific geographical areas, but five (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam) have spread throughout the world and have millions of followers.

Other questions come up about the Origins of Religion. People have always asked difficult questions about the nature of life and the universe. How did the world begin? Can we explain good and evil? What happens to us when we die? I offer the following:

Religion may have begun as one of the ways of answering some of these questions. Some religions, such as Hinduism, are founded on ancient myths that tell of powerful creator gods and forces of destruction. Early humankind worshipped these gods to win their favor because they believed gods' controlled the forces of nature. Other religions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism developed because of the work of important spiritual leaders or prophets. Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha and Jewish prophets of the Bible were all spiritual leaders who, in their own ways, inspired their followers and stimulated the spread of religious movements that are alive and practiced to this day.

I've been receiving calls about my health as I go through Leukemia treatments of 5 days of infusions every 26 days or so. I frequently undergo blood checks to see if white blood and hemoglobin levels are OK. I have started doing some physical therapy and walking short distances. God is good and has given me strength and confidence throughout this ordeal.

I am most grateful for the thoughts and prayers; they truly mean a lot. God bless you all for your love and kindness.

I hope to be able to get back to visiting our Heroes soon. Please pray for our Veterans and Service members throughout the globe.

**For God and Country,
Chaplain Ken**

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USS VERMONT**



**ENJOYED
BY**

**EVERY-
ONE!**





Over 80 bikers joined in the ride hosted by the **American Legion Riders Post 13** and were enthusiastically greeted by the Veterans and Members of the VVH. The support the Home receives from this organization is well-known and greatly appreciated.



While their submarine is docked in New London, CT., Sailors from the USS Vermont delivered treats donated by Wilcox Ice Cream to the Vermont Veterans' Home. Michele Burgess accepts the donation.

Photo credit: Bennington Banner 7/5/2022



Paul Yerke, Nutritional Services Director of VVH and a member of the American Legion Riders Post 13, cruises past the Veterans and Members during the 4th of July parade.

Photo credit: Bennington Banner 7/5/2022





A modern day troubadour, John Gilmore (above) travels across the country playing his Musical Salute to Veterans.



On behalf of the
Veterans and
Members, we
sincerely thank the
following for their
generous donations:



District 1 VFW of Vermont
Department of Vermont VFW

VFW Post 1332

Kristian Perry

Sons of the American Legion Detachment
of Vermont

Silver Forest, Inc.

VFW Auxiliary, Department of Vermont

American Legion Riders Post 13

Edward St. John

Erlon Broomhall

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts

Steve Leach

We have so many
wonderful people
who donate to the
VVH.

Yes, we do



In Memory of Richard Nash

Grace Chandler
Town of Walpole

In Memory of Julia Fox

Jane A. Bails

VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

CLEANING/HOUSEKEEPING/ LAUNDRY

Barbara Paddock — 13 years

DIETARY

Sarah Gaucher — 1 year

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Josh LaPointe — 17 years

NURSING

Lori Russell — 15 years

Maryann Burnham — 5 years

Kiona Kinney — 4 years

Mary Driscoll — 3 years

Kasey Mossey — 3 years

Hailey Howe — 3 years

Lisa Gaudette — 3 years

Joshua Aldrich — 3 year

Jean Cody — 2 years

Zachary Brace — 1 year

Carolyn Crawford — 1 year

Marcia Ethier — 1 year

Doreen Kinney — 1 year

John Mears — 1 year

Jeffrey Toplyn — 1 year

GREAT STAFF
GREAT TEAM

THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
 - ♦ Email
 - ♦ Mailing List (postal)
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Robyn Boland
(802) 447-6523
Email: Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Newspaper Subscriptions
Bingo Prizes Crafts
Neck Pillows Stamps
CD Players I-Tune Cards
Body Pillows Costume Jewelry
Outdoor Benches
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

Please make the check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

***Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201***

**Your donations are gratefully accepted.
THANK YOU**

Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing. We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH



Thank you to all VFW Posts in Vermont for the very generous donation for our Veterans.

Your continued support for the men and women who served, and the acknowledgement of the sacrifices of their families, is a constant reminder of your shared brotherhood.



***“FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the
Veterans of Vermont and their families”***

Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

